Design Philosophy

The design philosophy of Volume 1 establishes the standards for building finishes, supports the healthcare environment, enhances the facility's public image, and promotes employee morale.   The standards are established to meet the following criteria:

Durability

•Products meet all requirements in the Military Handbook 1191 (which was republished in 2003 as the Unified Facilities Criteria UFC 4-510-01) and Interior Design Presentation Format issued by HFPA. *Note: The UFC 4-510-01 shall be referred to as the Military Handbook 1191 in this document.*

•Products can be easily cleaned using solvent-free, water-based cleaner.

•Products are selected for maximum longevity according to their intended use.

Cost

•Products are cost-effective over their anticipated life cycle.

•Consideration is given to sustainable products.

Aesthetics

•Color palettes are based on warm and cool color schemes using appropriately placed accents with neutral backgrounds.

•Permanent architectural features remain in neutral colors; color accents may be used in a limited, constrained capacity.

•Random small-scaled patterns are encouraged; avoid large geometric or rigid patterns.

•Wayfinding materials incorporate floor and wall finishes and lighting accents and are adapted to meet the needs of all patient populations.

Life Safety

•Products specified are Class A or Class 1, are in accordance with the NFPA 101 LSC and meet the requirements in the Military Handbook 1191 and HFPA Interior Design Presentation Format.

•All adhesives are water-based, non-toxic and emit no or low-level VOCs.

•Application of materials and finishes comply with ADA regulations.

Design Philosophy

Flexibility

•Maximize flexibility by creating MEDCOM standards for interior design.

Evidence-Based Design

Evidence Based Design is the practice of implementing design elements into the healthcare environment, which are supported by research and evaluations; these Evidence Based Design decisions favorably impact patient outcomes and enhance the healing process.

•Select finishes that enhance the healing environment by:

  •Reducing the risk of falls.

  •Reducing noise and improve acoustics in the healthcare environment.

  •Providing finishes that are anti-microbial and do not support mold or mildew growth.

  •Provide bright lighting (either natural or artificial) to help reduce depression.